
A

TREATISE

OF THE

Nature and Use

OF THE

Bitter Purging Salt.

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1. 1944

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TREATISE

OF THE

NATURE and USE

OF THE

Bitter Purging Salt.

Easily known from all Counter-
feits by its Bitter Taste.

Written Originally in Latin, by *Nehemiah Grew*, Doctor in Physick,
Fellow of the College of Physicians
and of the Royal Society.

And done into English.

London, Printed in the Year 1700.

Tractatum hunc, cui Titulus, *De Salis*
Cathartici amari, in Aquis Ebesha-
enfibus, & hujusmodi aliis contenti, Naturâ
Usu; Authore *Nehemia Grew, M.D. Re-*
alis Collegii Medicorum Londinensium, &
Regiæ Societatis Socio, dignum judicamus
qui imprimatur :

Actum ex Ædibus
Collegii nostri in
Comitiis Censo-
ritis, *Mail 3. 1695.*

Johannes Lawson, Præses.
Samuel Collins
Rich. Torless
Edw. Tyson
Mart. Lister } *Censores*

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TO THE

Two Famous and Celebrated

SOCIETIES.

OF

Royal Foundation.

As well that instituted for the Advancement of

Natural Knowledge,

As the other, especially for that of

Medicine,

NEHEMIAH GREW

Wisheth all Happiness.

I Present you, *most Excellent Sirs*, with the following *Treatise*, in two Parts. The First whereof, *Of the Nature of the Bitter Waters, and of their Salt*, I drew up long since,

since, as a *short Paraphrase* upon one Title of Nature, to be inserted into the *Pandects of Materia Medica*, with your good liking.

The above-mentioned *Salt* more than 15 Years past *, at a *Publick Meeting* of *Philosophers*, the Lord *Brouncker* being then *President*, was by me shewed to the *Board*.

Afterwards, some of You, my *Learned Brethren*, began to make it your selves, and also to prescribe it in your *Practice*.

The *latter Part*, Of the *Use of the Waters and of their Salt*, required the Proof of many Years Experience; and my own to be added unto *Tours*. Of what singular *Use* therefore, in many, and those, great and dangerous *Diseases*, it is to be accounted; both *You*, my worthy *Colleagues*, and my self also, can give our united Testimonies. But whether I have promis'd any more than the *Medicine* will make good, I am content should be referred to Your *Judgments* and unquestionable Experience herein. Its *Use* undoubtedly is of that large *Extent*, that as *Common Salt* is the *Sauce* of

* Now near eighteen Years.

(M)
soft Meats, so this may not improperly be
called, *The Seasoner of Medicine.*

In reckoning up the *Diseases* for which it
most effectual, I thought fit to mention
some other Remedies, as apt Assistants here-
to. With this Intent, that I might not seem,
after the way of *Mountebanks*, to boast of
some new-invented *All-heal*. Yet I have
scarcely any where set down an entire *Method*
of *Cure*. Forasmuch as what I have here
written is intended for the *Use*, not of young
beginners, but *experienced Physicians*, espe-
cially those who practise in *Places* remote
from this *City*: Whom, if I have shewed the
Virtues of a *Medicine*, until now a Stranger
to them; it will be believed, I have done a
Work, as not to them unwelcome; so, not
mainly intended for the *Publick Good*. And
therefore also as well as I could, what you
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nor aim at the *Monopoly*, but justly claim the
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The

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PART the FIRST.

Of the Nature of the Bitter
Purging SALT.

CHAP. I.

*Of the Means whereby the Bitter Purging
Waters came first to be commonly known.*

OF all the Bitter Purging Waters, those
near to Ebesham, called *Epsom*, in the
County of Surry, were about the
year 1620. upon notice given of 'em
by a Country-Fellow, the first generally known.
For the first ten Years they were made use of
only by some of the poor neighbouring People,
externally, in washing their Old Sores.

Afterwards, the Lord *Dudly North*, Father to
Francis, not long since Lord Keeper of the Great
Seal of *England*, being of a melancholick Con-
stitution, and having formerly drank the *Spaw-*
Waters in *Germany*; thence took the hint to try
the virtue of these also near *Epsom*: hoping, I
sup-

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suppose that he had met with the like *Chalybeate*
or *Iron * Waters*, here at home.

But notwithstanding that, in this respect they
answer'd not his Wish and Expectation; yet he
did not conclude he had tried them in vain,
when he perceiv'd they purg'd him, as a Medi-
cine sent from Heaven, with much Relief.

By his Example many others were encourag'd
to try the Operation of these Waters. And a-
mong the first, the Illustrious Princess *Maria*
de Medices, Mother to the Wife of King *Charles*
the First; the Lord *George Goring*, Earl of *Nor-*
wich, and many other Persons of Quality.

These, and all others who drank of these *Wells*,
frequented them not as yet for their Pleasure,
but only for their Health; and therefore sent
either for their own, or some other neighbouring
Physicians, of whom they received *Directions*
how to drink them.

Upon this, *Physicians* began to come to these
Wells of their own accord; by whose Authority
they became of so great account, that no less
than two thousand People have met there in
one day, to drink, or to divert themselves.

* *Chalybeate or Iron-Waters.*] The Author here complies
with the Name in use, tho' perhaps improper: for which I
have heard him give this Reason, because we have no known
way of making a volatile Vitriol, or Spirit of Iron; whereas
the Spirit contained in these Waters is volatile in a high de-
gree. So that we may rather suppose them to be impreg-
nated with either a *Marchasite*, or some such Mineral as is
seth to be a Companion to Iron.

A while after, viz. about thirty years past, many *Londoners*, not having Time, or Money enough, to spend at these Wells, procured the Waters to be sent them thence.

Which occasion some taking hold of, furnished themselves with great Quantities, which they sold to *Apotbecaries*, and those who were *advis'd* to drink them, as is also done to this day. The Reason why the *Wells* are less frequented by *ailing* People now, than heretofore, not being because *Physicians* now-a-days have a meaner Opinion of them, but because the number of those who drink the *Waters*, either at home, or at other *Wells*, daily encreaseth.

For not long after those near *Epsom* came to be generally known, divers others of the same nature being found out, either upon search, or by chance, came into some Note and Use. The Names of the chief whereof I have hereunto subjoin'd.

At	{ <i>Barnet</i>	in	{ <i>Hartfordshire.</i>
	{ <i>North Hall</i>		{ <i>Hartfordshire.</i>
	{ <i>Acton,</i>		{ <i>Middlesex.</i>
	{ <i>Cobham,</i>		{ <i>Surrey.</i>
	{ <i>Dulwich</i>		{ <i>Surrey.</i>
	{ <i>Stretbam</i>		{ <i>Surrey:</i>

Besides these, the Curiosity of many being excited, may perhaps hereafter discover as many more yet unknown to us; especially with the help of this Indication, that sweet Springs commonly break forth about the *Tops* of Hills; but these for the most part, at the *Bottom*.

C H A P. II.

Of the Nature of the Bitter Purging Waters.

THese *Waters* are indeed but moderately yet sensibly Bitter, but scarce of any other taste *.

Some in the account they give of their Travels, tell us of certain bitter Springs near Syria and Egypt. And S. James in his General Epistle, intimates as if sweet and bitter *Waters* were both equally known to the People in the Eastern Parts. All which bitter *Waters* may possibly be of this kind.

These *Waters* are not all equally bitter or strong, but some of them work a little more than others: of the stronger sort are those of Dulwich; of the more gentle, those of Epsom.

These *Waters*, while in their own Wells, are without Scent; but being kept cover'd in Vessels for some days, or weeks, especially in Summer they will corrupt and stink; which sometime happens to all others, even Spring-*Waters* themselves, in Ships which sail near the Equator.

This *Water*, tho' mix'd with a small quantity of Syrup of Violets, yet no way alters its blue Colour which thereupon remains the same as if it had been any other Spring-*Water*.

* Scarce of any other Taste.] The Reader is to observe that this is said of the *Waters*, not of the Salt hereafter describ'd.

But a little Water impregnated with *Unslacked Lime*, being added to this Water, it becomes, as with a few drops of *Milk*, of a *bluish* and *semispicuous Grey* : and within about an hour, the coagulated parts, which cause that Colour, settle in the form of a *whitish Cloud* ; produced by the action of the *Lixivial Salt of Lime* with that in the *Purging Waters*, which is potentially *Acid*.

All these *Purging Waters* will curdle *Milk*, if put to them when they boil, or are *boiling hot* ; but not if mixed *cold*.

Any of these *bitter Purging Waters* being evaporated, or steamed away in a *Glass*, glazed, or other convenient Vessel, yieldeth both a certain *Cremor* at the top, and also a *Setling* ; of both together about *six, eight, or ten Drachms* out of every *Gallon of Water*.

This *Cremor* * is of an *Ashen Colour*, and in whole substance *stony*, and seems to be of the nature of some sort of *Plaster* ; but certainly not the *Lime-stone* : for every one knows that *raw Lime-stone*, upon pouring even cold Water upon it, grows very hot, and sends forth a great and thick Steam ; and being applied to any part of your Body, hath a burning quality, and is there-

* This *Cremor* is — *stony, and of the nature of some sort of Plaster.*] And I have seen Stones taken out of the Ground where these purging Springs arise, of this nature ; some of them opacous, of the Colour of the *Lapis Judaicus*, and some of them transparent, but all of them glossy ; and figur'd on the Edge with a sort of *Indenture*.

fore used by Surgeons as a *Potential Caustick*. But the said *Cremor* being in a Crucible equally burnt, neither produceth, upon the affusion of Water, any steam: nor grows hot, nor so much as in the least affecteth that most tender part, the Tongue it self.

Sometimes it consisteth (as that of *Adon* Water) of most extream small and thin shining Plates, very friable or brittle, and altogether tasteless, tho' burnt as aforesaid; yet upon the affusion of any Acid Liquor, and especially of *Spirit of Nitre*, will cause an Ebullition with some seeming heat.

The lesser part of the *Sediment* or *Setling*, is in Substance the same with the *Cremor* now describ'd; the rest is all Salt, but consisting of two sorts, the one a *Muriatick Salt*, the other that which is proper or peculiar to these Waters; the Nature and Virtues whereof I here intend to shew.

In *Epsom Water*, the *Muriatick Salt* is about a twentieth part of the *Saline Mixture*. In that of *Dulwich*, it is in a greater Proportion: And so in most of those above-mentioned. 'Tis both in its *Acrimonious Taste*, and the Figure of its Chrystals, not unlike to Common Salt: Whence it is, that those Waters which have less of this Salt in them work off more gently.

The other Salt is that, as I have said, which is special or proper to the *Purging Waters*: 'Tis made

made in the same manner * as any *Lixivial Salt*,
viz. by Evaporation, Filtration, and ChrySTALLI-
cation; Calcination only being omitted. In this
preparation, first the Earthy or Plaistery part is
to be separated from the *Saline*, and then the *Mu-*
stic Salt, with the brown and dark *Liquor* from
which is the proper Salt of the Waters.

C H A P. III.

Of the Nature of the Proper, that is, of the Bit-
ter Salt of the Waters.

THIS Salt, if perfectly prepared, is as beauti-
fully *white* as the new fallen *Snow*.

Undissolved, it hath the same bitter *Taste* as
the *Waters* themselves, but in a much higher de-
gree: and is also acuated with a certain *Pungen-*
cy, which is very penetrating, but without any
acrimony.

But if one *Drachm* of this Salt, or thereabout,
be dissolved in a Pint of common *Water*, that is,
in the same proportion as it hath to its own sub-
terraneous *Water*; this *Common Water*, as it
thereby obtains the same property of curdling

* *Tis made in the same manner as any Lixivial Salt.*] That
is the same general way; and so I am well assured it is.
It is also that the particular way of Evaporation, Filtration,
and ChrySTALLIZATION here used, is very different from that
used in the making of any *Lixivial Salt*.

Milk, so is ennobled with the very same (almost simply) *bitter Taste*, as the *Mineral Water* it self, and with the same *Purging Virtue*; and may therefore not unaptly be distinguished, both from that called *Sal mirabile*, made of *Oil of Vitriol* and *Common Salt*, and from all other Salts, by the Name of the *Bitter Purging Salt*.

This *Bitter Purging Salt*, according as the Water wherein it resides is *more or less boiled*, and the *degree of cold* whereto it is afterwards expos'd, and other Circumstances, shoots into *Chrystals* differently *fix'd*, but in *Figure*, whether small or great, much alike: for most of them, if they have room to shoot in, are so many small *Rectangular Prisms*, with *four Parallelogram Plains*; and, with two of them a little less and opposite, somewhat flattish. Sometimes they are *Sexangular*, with two more *Parallel Plains*; but those so very small as hardly to be discerned. About half an Inch in *length*, exceeding their *thickness* five, six, or seven times. Stand upon a crusty *Base* of the same Salt. Their upper ends much vary'd, with *sometimes three, usually four inclined or sloped Plains*, making *Obtuse Angles*; with the *Parallelograms* aforesaid, so as to be either pointed, or more often *edg'd* like a *Chizel*: of which upper Plains there is a *Pentangular* or *Sexangular* one, commonly greater than all the other three put together: to this an opposite, which is *Quadrangular* or *Pentangular*; the other two *Triangular*, and very small, sometimes hardly discernable without a *Microscope*. These

These Chrystals, in their being of a long
figure, come nearer to *Nitre* or Salt-Petre; and
being Rectangular, to Common Salt, than to
any other Species of Salt.

The same *bitter Purging Salt*, being dissolved
in fair Water, and let to stand for some days in
Glass, it shoots round about the sides of the
Glass, into branched Chrystals, in imitation of
the Shrubs. For the producing of which Fi-
gure, the now describ'd Chrystals of this Salt, as
also those of *Nitre* (which ends sometimes with
right Angles, sometimes Acute) are made very
viz. by the application of the Sloped Plain
of one Chrystal to the *Parallel Plain* of another.

In like manner as I have shewed

the Generation of the Leaves

of Plants, to be performed by

their own Salts. Where, by the

way, it is to be noted, that in that Discourse, I

have represented the Figures of *Nitre* and other

Salts, not altogether as we see them shoot, but

it is probable, they exist in the Plants them-
selves.

Put five Drachms of the *bitter Purging Salt* in-

to a Bottle, with half an ounce of fair Water,

and shake them very well; with this Agitation

done, and the gentle Warmth of the Hand, e-

ven in Winter, the Water will quickly imbibe all

the Salt, a few Grains excepted; this Salt being

much more dissoluble than most other Salts.

It is also distinguish'd from all other Salts by its

* *Anat. of Plants,*
Book 4. Part 1.
Chap. the last.

Specifick Gravity ; that is, the weight hereof compared with the Bulk. As it is heavier than *Alum* ; so much lighter than *Common Salt* : and also than *Nitre* ; as will appear hereafter in the 5th Chapter.

A Solution of this Salt, and another of Salt of *Tartar*, or of any other *Lixivial*, or Urinous Salt *, being mixed, produce a white *Coagulum*, or Curd ; or a certain kind of Neutral Salt, tasted neither like the one, nor the other, but in some sort Astringent.

Oil of Vitriol, very strong, and newly made being drop'd upon this Purging Salt, causeth a moderate Ebullition. Whereby it appears to partake of an *Alkaline Principle* †, which is so capable of becoming in some sort *Lixivial*.

But no other Liquor, that I know of, whether *Alkaline* or *Acid*, being dropped upon the said Salt, gives it any manner of Motion or Heat.

This Salt being put in a Crucible, into a pretty bright Fire, it melts or flows much after the manner of *Alum*, and huffs up in the form of a white, porous, and blubber'd *Calx*. Yet is this *Calx* almost wholly dissoluble in a sufficient quantity

* *Urinous Salt.*] Such as the Volatile Salt of Harts-horn, Soot, &c. † *An Alkaline Principle, capable of becoming in some sort Lixivial.*] Observe that these two are to be distinguished, viz. as the Genus is from the Species: For most *Lixivial Salts* are Alkaline ; but there are many Alkaline (as Testaceous Salts actually existent in Shells unburnt) which are not *Lixivial*.

of fair Water, excepting perhaps a fortieth
part of the whole: But the *Lime-stone* is nothing

This same *Calx*, burnt in a Crucible, for an
hour in a good strong Fire, grows almost as
hard as a *Bastard Alabaster*. Neither doth it af-
terwards become softer, upon its being expos'd
to the *Aer*: much less doth it crumble into Pou-
der, after the manner of burnt *Lime-stone*.

By being thus burnt, although it loseth some
part of its *weight*, yet not of its *bitter Taste*,
which on the contrary, is hereby augmented*.

The same *Calx*, with *Spirit of Salt*, or other
acid Liquor, maketh an Ebullition more or less
conspicuous, according to the Strength of the
Mixed Spirit; and may therefore be accounted
in some sort *Lixivial*.

A pound of this *Salt* being put into a *Coated*
Glass Retort, and distill'd in a *Reverberating Fur-*
nace, will afford in a *Receiver*, a little better
than half a Pound of a certain *Acid Spirit*, both
in Scent and Taste somewhat like to the *Spirit*
of Common Salt.

Oil of Vitriol dropped upon *Spirit of Common*
Salt, causeth a kind of thick and fummy steam,
which also happens from the same *Oil*, if very
strong, when dropped upon the *Spirit of the*
Purging Salt.

[Its bitter Taste is hereby augmented.] Which shews the
sweetness of its Principles, by the Union whereof the bit-
terness is produced.

It is very well known, that all Acidulated *Iron-Waters*, will turn Purple with the Infusion of a Dyer's Gall: As will also White-wine Vinegar, but of a duller Colour. But the same Infusion with the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*, though an *Acid*, yet makes no alteration: nor with Spirit of *Sulphur*, nor with Oil of *Vitriol*; whereby, as well as by sundry other ways, the different nature of these and other *Acids* is discovered.

Having poured some *River-water* into eight Drinking-Glasses, and given them all the same blue Colour with a few drops of Syrup of *Violet*. I let one of them stand without any thing else superadded. To another, I put a little Nitre. To a Third, as much of the bitter *Purging Salt*. To a Fourth, the Infusion of *Quick-Lime* made with fair Water, commonly called *Lime-Water*. To a Fifth, a solution of the *Calx* of the *Purging Salt*. To a Sixth, the Infusion of white *Tartar*. To a Seventh, the distill'd Spirit of the *Purging Salt*. To the last, a little both of the *Calx* of the *Purging Salt*, and of *Lime-water*.

In the three first, the blue Colour remained without alteration, saving that it grew a little paler.

In the fourth and fifth, the said blue was presently changed into a Green: but in the former, somewhat muddy and a little paler; in the latter deep and clear, like that of an *Emerald*.

In the sixth and seventh, it turn'd Purple: but in the former, dull; in the other, like that of an *Ametbyst*. The

The green Colour, which in the fourth and
vanished in the space of three hours; in the
was deeper and more permanent.

From this manifold Experiment we may ob-
that Nitre, although upon deflagration, it
is a fixt, and that a *Lixivial Salt*; and by
distillation, an *Acid Spirit*: yet having neither a
Lixivial nor an *Acid Taste*, it gives the Syrup nei-
ther a Green Colour nor a Purple. And by
force of Reason, we may conclude the same of
the *Bitter Purging Salt*: that is to say, that it is
compounded of some Parts potentially *Acid*, that
is capable of becoming *Acid*; and of others
which are *Alkaline*, and also capable of becom-
ing in some sort *Lixivial*.

And that it really consisteth of both the said
Principles, is evident from the *Acid Taste* of its
Spirit; and the green Colour given to the Syrup
with its *Calx*, in like manner as by *Lime water* and
other *Lixivial Liquors*.

And in the last Glass, the Colour is therefore
deeper, and more *Permanent*; because it is pro-
duced by the joint efficacy (as Ink of two *A-*
gents, so this of two *Lixivial Salts*, both
that of the *Cathartick*, and that of *Lime*.

And it is plain, that the Being of these Salts
and their Force in the changing of Colours, doth
wholly and altogether depend upon the Fire,
because that the Infusion of *white Tartar*, gives
the Syrup a purple Colour, as well as the Spirit
of the *Purging Salt*.

Last-

Lastly, let it be noted, that I have called the *Alkaline* Principle of the *Purging Salt*, such an one as is capable of becoming, in some sort *Lixivial*: for neither in the *Calx* it self of this Salt (as hath already been observed in this Chapter) is there any *Lixivial Taste*. Notwithstanding which, from the Experiments afore-related, the *Purging Salt* may be argued, before it hath felt the Fire, to be in part *Alkaline*; but when it is well burnt, to be in some sort *Lixivial*: albeit we may not so properly call it *Lixivial*, nor perhaps by any other Name which Use hath approved: For the Furniture of Words is in nothing more scanty *, than it is in Philosophy; to wit, in that Philosophy, which, as the Handmaid of Nature, observeth her Varieties every where admirable, with exactest Discrimination and Diligence.

* *The Furniture of Words is in nothing more scanty, than it is in Philosophy.*] The Occasion of many false Conceptions of things, entertained and defended by unthinking Men, who having no other Images of things, but such as answer to some word in use; conclude the number of proper Words and of things to be the same.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt differs from Alum, and from Common Salt.

From the Experiments already brought, and next to be alledged, being thoroughly understood and compared*, it will appear that the Bitter Purging Salt, altho' it hath some qualities in common with other Salts, yet is truly, or specifically different from them all.

'Tis thought by most to be produc'd of some certain *Aluminous Mine*; but upon no good ground. For how can that be proved? because it curdles Milk? 'Tis no proof at all. For by the same absurd Argument, *Vinegar, Wine, Ale,* and whatsoever else curdles Milk, wou'd be proved to be *Aluminous*.

Nor yet because it huffs up and blubers like *Alum* when it's melted. For as much as melted *Borax* huffs up in the same manner: but *Borax* both not coagulate Milk, and so is not *Aluminous*;

* From the Experiments — compared:] For tho' some of them may seem to be of less moment, taken alone; yet none of them but is of necessary use, not to be jointly considered towards the Author's giving of full satisfaction to the Reader in what he asserts; whom I have heard to say, That in Philosophy sometimes, a twopenny Experiment is of more value, than many of those pompous ones which glitter with Gold and Pearls.

nei-

neither therefore is the *bitter Purging Salt*.

Again, of an ounce of *Alum* burnt in a Crucible for half an hour, there remains half an ounce of *Calx*; to which *Calx* if you pour a sufficient quantity of fair Water, till it hath imbibed all the dissoluble Parts, there will still lie at the bottom of the Vessel above two and fifty Grains of a simple and insipid Earth; which is more than six times as much as that which settles from the *Calx* of the Purging Salt dissolved in like manner.

Neither is the *Spirit of Alum*, distilled with a strong Fire at all like the Spirit of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, as having a more *Acrimonious Taste*, and nothing so pleasant; besides that it strikes the Nose, which is specially to be observed, with a base *stinking Scent*, altogether like that of true Spirit of Sulphur *, which the Germans call *Gass Sulphuris*, or that of melted and flaming Brimstone.

Add hereto, that the Taste of *Alum* is so different from that of the *Purging Salt*, that nothing can be more: For whereas that is not at all *bitter*, but plainly *rough* or *acerb*; this, without any *Acerbity*, is plainly *bitter*.

They are likewise distinguished by their very different Figures. For the Crystals of *Alum*,

* *The True Spirit.*] Which cannot be made (as that commonly called the Spirit of Sulphur) by Distillation, but by placing flaming brimstone and fair Water so together, that the Water may receive and imbibe the steam of the Brimstone, which either is, or contains the *Gass* or *True Spirit*.

that

that is the factitious, being in their height a little
are comprehended within eight Plains; two of
which, that above and that below, are Sexangu-
lar, and Parallel one to another: the greater and
lesser Sides of each of these Plains, being alter-
nately composed, so as the three greater are op-
posite to the three less. About these stand six
quadrangular Plains, with their Sides and Angles
all unequal; the greater and the less alternately
pointed towards the Centre of the Chrystal. But
how very unlike this Figure is to that of the Cry-
stals of the *Purging Salt* before describ'd, is visi-
ble enough by comparing them together.

Neither is there any better ground to account
the *Purging Salt* a Species of Common Salt;
from which being perfectly refined, it differs as
much in Taste, as it doth from *Alum*.

As also in Figure; the Crystals of Common
Salt not shooting in length, but so as to come
very near the Figure, yet a little below the Al-
lude of a Cube*.

Farther, the *Purging Salt* being put in a Cruci-
ble, into a strong Fire, it flies little more than
half away, and that in an invisible Steam: but
Common Salt committed to the same Heat; as,
when melted, it becomes much more fluid; so it
evaporates in a thick Steam like to Smoak, hard.

[A Cube.] The Crystals of Salt produced by evapora-
ting the Water of the Salt-Sea in *Judea*, are most of them
exact Cubes.

ly an eighteenth part of the whole remaining in the Crucible.

Neither (which may seem strange) doth the Spirit of *common Salt* curdle Milk after the same manner as doth the Spirit of the Purging Salt. I deny not indeed but that the Spirit of *common Salt* being poured, tho' in a moderate quantity upon Milk unmixt with any other Liquor, and when it boils, will make it curdle. Wherefore not to conclude upon Uncertainties, I made the Experiment in the following manner.

To a Pint of *boiling River-water* impregnated with a Dram of the Purging Salt, I put three or four spoonfuls of Milk, and so let the Water boil again; upon which the Milk turn'd to a Curd swim upon the top of the Water.

And so it did in like manner, upon mixing a Drachm of the Spirit of the Purging Salt, instead of the Purging Salt.

Lastly, instead of the Spirit of the Purging Salt I put the Spirit of *Common Salt* (rather stronger than the Spirit aforesaid) and then the Milk to the Water, both of them in the same proportion as before; and so let the Water boil again which done, the Milk notwithstanding continued in its own natural Fluidity, without making any Curd.

* *Remaining*] And that which doth remain is not Salt but a true *Caput Mortuum*, of a kind of Brick-Colour, indissoluble in Water, and so without any Taste.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt differs from Nitre, and from the Salt of Lime.

NOR can we for any better Reason, look upon the Bitter Purging Salt, as a sort of Nitre; from which it were sufficiently distinguished, if only by its *bitter Taste*.

And no less by its Figure; the Crystals of Nitre being comprehended, not within four *Parallelogram Plains*, but always six *Plains*; not within *Right Angles*, but *Obtuse*. And because the Tops of these are terminated, scarce ever with four, commonly with two, often with six *angled Plains*; and those more equal than in the Purging Salt.

Likewise, in that being cast into the Fire, it is always inflammable. Much less doth it spend itself in bright and sounding Flames, as Nitre doth, till it is almost consumed. I say, *almost*; I deny not but in the 3d Chapter I have already intimated, that a very small part hereof (about a *twentieth*) after the Deflagration is ended, remaineth Fixed. Which yet is not at all vitriolous, but in Taste, and other qualities, truly trivial; being that which they who make *Niter* mix with it out of Wood-Ashes.

Again, the *Purging Salt* being held in a Spoon

over the *flame of a Candle*, it melts within half the minute of an hour ; and huffs up with blubbers in the same manner as if cast into the Fire. Whereas *Nitre*, with the same sort of heat, will hardly melt at all ; but requires at least an eight-fold space of time, and a very bright Flame.

On the contrary, altho' it is melted more difficultly, yet with much greater fluidity ; for being placed in a Crucible, in a good strong Fire, it doth not blubber as Alum, or as the Purging Salt, but like Rosin, or Metal, plainly flows.

Nitre also, melted in a Crucible, sends forth a thick and dark Steam ; whereof there is no Appearance arising from the Purging Salt, tho' with the most vehement heat.

They are moreover distinguished by the Property of curdling Milk. For half a Drachm of the Purging Salt, being put into half a pint of boiling Milk, makes a considerable Curd, with a very thin Whey : But *Nitre* being added to Milk in the same manner, and in a much greater proportion, doth not curdle it at all.

The *Solubility of Nitre* is likewise less by three degrees, than that I have before prov'd to belong to the Purging Salt. For half an ounce of fair Water being well shaken ; and assisted only with the Winter-warmth of the Hand, will dissolve no more than a Drachm and half of *Nitre*.

They are likewise different in weight, where I made the Experiment in manner following. I put Oil of Turpentine into a Cylandrick Glass, til

rose to the height of three Inches; then putting into the same Glass, two Ounces of the Purging Salt, the Oil advanc'd to a fourth Inch. But the like quantity of pure *Nitre* being super-added, the Oil then ascended further, not more than three quarters of an Inch. Wherefore *Nitre* is heavier by one fourth * part, than the *Purging Salt*.

And yet *Water*, if impregnated with the *Purging Salt*, takes up less space (the Bulk of the Salt consider'd) than if with *Nitre*: That is, *Water* being put into the Glass with these Salts instead of the *Oil*: upon the dissolution of the former, it will subside or sink lower, than of the latter †.

Lastly, Let *Dantzick Vitriol*, *Sal Armoniack*, and instead of *Nitre*, the bitter *Purging Salt*, be mixt in the same proportion, and distill'd in the same manner as is done for the making of *Aqua Regia*. If then the *Purging Salt* were a sort of *Nitre*, the *Water* distill'd from the said Mixture would dissolve *Gold* as well as the *Aqua Regia*. But we find no such *Gold-dissolving Power* in this *Water*.

Much less is it the *Nitre* of the Ancients: For neither is it that *Egyptian* kind, so often men-

* By one fourth Part] That is, three times the Bulk of *Nitre*, makes equal weight with four times the Bulk of the *Purging Salt*. † The Reader cannot so well understand this Experiment, except he have recourse to that Lecture, which the Author read some years since before the Royal Society, of the Solution of Salts in *Water*.

tioned by *Hippocrates* : nor that, not unlike it, described both by *Dioscorides* and *Pliny*, to be Purple, and of an *Acriminous Taste* ; nor yet that which *Aetius* prescribes, as if a *Bole*, to be burnt and quenched in Wine.

Neither in the last place can it be properly entituled, a *Limy Salt* : For the Purging Salt, or the Purging Water it self, put to Milk, makes a much harder Curd, and more plentiful than *Lime-water*, that is, the *Infusion of Burnt Lime*. And what if it were produc'd by both alike? How many Liquors afore mention'd, curdle Milk, which are no more *Limy*, than they are *Aluminous* ?

Spirit of Nitre dropped upon the *Cremor* on the top of *Lime-water*, or even upon *Lime-Stone* when unburnt, maketh a conspicuous E-bullition. But the Purging Salt is with this Spirit, not at all affected.

There is no where found two more differing Tastes, than those of the Purging Salt, and of *Lime-Water* ; this being Lixivial and Sweet, that in a manner Cold and Bitter.

Lime-Stone burnt and unslackt, being sprinkled with a little Water, presently crumbles into Powder. On the contrary, the poud'r'd *Cals* of the Purging Salt, immediatly becomes a hardish Substance, and continues for some Minutes almost like a Stone.

The Spring-Water near *London*, and notified by the Image of the *Holy Lamb*, and commonly called

called *Lambs-Conduit Water* , by pouring upon it a little *Lime-water*, presently grows whitish, with a kind of *grey Coagulum*, as doth the *Purging Water*. But *Water* impregnated with the *Calx* of *Purging Salt*, maketh the said *Lambs-Conduit Water* nothing muddy, nor colour'd, but it continues altogether as clear, as when it was unmixed.

Fair *Water* being impregnated with the bitter *Purging Salt*, and then evaporated, yields the same *Salt* again in *Quantity* and *Quality*, most entire. Contrariwise, the *Salt* of *Lime-Water*, evaporated in the same manner, is wholly turn'd into a *tasteless* and *stony Substance* † : The Cause whereof is, for that the *Salt* of the *Lime-water* is so far agreeable, and throughly united to some

† *The Salt of Lime is turned into a tasteless and stony Substance.*] From which Experiment may be made this Remark, That the reason why Mortar is so good a Cement, is because the *Salt* contained in the *Lime*, not being dissolved like other *Salts*, but hardned, and really petrified by the *Aer*, becomes the Cement of the other parts of the *Lime*, whereby the whole Mass is in time converted again into a *Stone*. And that probably the Mortar which the *Romans* used, was harder than that we commonly meet with now-a-days ; either because they made it of such *Lime* as had a greater plenty of this *Salt*, or by burning it otherwise than is now usual, the *Salt* was laid more open to the *Aer* ; or else by pouring upon unslackt *Lime*, not common *Water*, as is now always done, but *Lime-water* ; whereby the *Salt*, bearing a greater proportion to the *Earth*, the whole Mass might acquire a greater Hardness, and in a less time. 'Twere easy to be tri'd.

other Aerial Salt, as therewith to constitute a Third sort of Body different from them both. In like manner, as of the best Oils of *Visriol*, and of *Annise-seeds*, mixt together, is produc'd a *Rosin*, properly so call'd, and if wash'd, altogether tasteless.

The proof whereof we may also make by the following Experiment. Let some *Lime water* be kept a Week, or longer, both in a corked Bottle, and in an open Vessel: In the Bottle the top of the Water remains naked; but in the open Vessel, where the Air hath a free access to the Water, it is cover'd with a *Cremor* insipid, and stony, properly so called.

But Water, in which the *Purging Salt* is dissolved, being committed to the Air for many days in an open Vessel, affords not a jot of the said stony *Cremor*; nor is that *Cremor* produc'd upon boiling the *Purging Waters*, at all of a *Limy Nature*, as is before proved.

Add hereto the extream difference in the *solubility* of these two *Salts*: for half an ounce of the *Purging Salt*, without any heat or much shaking, is easily and presently dissolv'd in two ounces of fair Water: whereas half an ounce of the Salt contained in *Quick-Lime*, requires, to imbibe it all, no less than two Gallons and half of fair Water; that is, three hundred and twenty Ounces, or a hundred and sixty times as much Water as the former. For so much fair Water is necessary to the Edulcoration of an Ounce of

Quick-

Quick Lime : which being done, there remains about half an Ounce of a most light and insipid *Calx* in the bottom of the Vessel.

To conclude, the *bitter Purging Salt*, were very eminently distinguished from all other Salts, in no other way than by its *Medicinal Vertue* ; as in the *Second Part* of this *Treatise*, concerning its *Use*, will plainly appear.

In the mean time we will suppose that some small Portion both of *Nitre*, and *Common Salt*, and also of *Plaster*, may sometimes be mixed, not only with the *Purging Waters*, but with the *Purging Salt* it self. And what then? when it is probable, that in all Nature there is no where to be found a Body absolutely simple. Who knows not that *Silver* is mix'd with *Lead*, or *Copper*, *Gold* with *Silver*, in the same *Mine*, *Vein*, or even Lump of *Ore* ? Yet *Silver* and *Copper*, or *Silver* and *Gold*, do not therein constitute a third Metal ; but are two or more co-existent, yet separable Metals.

Nor moreover is the Identity of Bodies sufficiently defin'd, by their agreement in some *Qualities* : For so *Lead* or *Gold* do agree; both of them are Bodies hard, opacous, malleable, meltable, heavy, &c. and are both therefore Metals. But nothing is *Gold*, which hath not all the qualities of *Gold*. Yet *Gold* differs not in more, or more eminent respects, from *Lead*, than doth the *bitter Purging Salt* from all the Salts aforementioned : And is therefore a very noble Salt of a distinct kind.

C H A P. VI.

*Some further Observations of the Nature of the
Bitter Purging Salt.*

OF the specifying *Qualities* of this Salt afore-
described one of the principal is, its mean-
ly and almost simply *bitter Taste*; with respect to
which, the Crystals of Silver, of all other Salts
that I know of, come the nearest. For these are
indeed *bitter*; but also in a high degree; and the
bitter is also jointed with the greatest Austerity.

I have else where * observ'd,
that the *Lapis Calaminaris*, and
Silver have some *Qualities* com-
mon to them both. I dropt therefore upon this
Stone a little Spirit of Nitre; and after the Ebul-
lition thereupon arising was over, I diluted
the Mixture with fair Water. This Water,
like the Crystals of Silver, is not only rough in
the highest degree †, but very *bitter*. The only
Mineral that I know of, endued with a *bitter*
Taste, except the Salt of Silver, and the Purging
Salt.

But whether the Purging Salt is the Product
of any perfect or imperfect Silver Mine, or any

† *Rough in the highest degree.*] As in all likelihood, it also
becomes in the Stomach and Bowels, when it there meets
with some fretting Acid: and thereby sometimes proves a
potent Astringent in *Diarrheas* thence arising.

to which the *Lapis Calaminarius* is of kin, or rather of some other; not having as yet been able to get the Mother-Mineral hereof, I leave undetermined.

However, from the foresaid Experiments, thus much is evident, That the *Bitter Purging Salt* compounded of such certain Parts as are Potentially Acid, that is, capable of becoming Acid, and of others which are *Alcaline*; and that these are such as are also capable of becoming, in some sort, *Lixivial*.

Now in *Salts* compounded of divers Principles, the Proportion, Nature and Union of the Principles are to be consider'd. There seem to be some *Acid Particles* mixed even with *Lixivial Salts*; but in a small Quantity. On the contrary, in *Tartar*, that is, the *Salt of Wine*, there is a less quantity of those parts which are Potentially Salt, but of the *Acid* a far greater. And in much a like manner, in the *Bitter Purging Salt*. With this difference, that in the former, such Parts as are actually *Acid*, are mixt with the *Alcaline*; in the latter, such only as are potentially *Acid*.

Again, all *Salts* made of Lees, are *Acrimonious*. But those commonly called *Testaceous*, are, not without ground, accounted more mild: As are also some *Acid Liquors* above others, as the Juice of *Wood-Sorrel*, an Infusion of *Cremor Tartari*, and the like. All which are excell'd, in Lenity, by the *Purging Salt*. Which tho' upon Distillation, it yields an *Acid Spirit*; yet there is nothing of
Acri-

Acrimony, or Acidity, to be perceiv'd in the Salt it self; but only in its Principles, when severed and defiled with a most vehement Fire.

Neither is this Salt of a flat Taste; but extream subtil and penetrating; and upon that score, is the more effectual remedy. And its admirable Subtilty hereby further appears, in that penetrating all manner of earthen Vessels, if not very well Leaded or Glaz'd, it gathers all over their Outfides in a sort of Pile like that of the *Amiantus* or *Thrum-stone* *.

The Principles also of this Salt, are much more inseparably mixed, than in *Tartar*, and many other Medicines. Their Union being so close and inward, that the one, *viz.* that which is Potentially Acid, seems not; tho' with a reverberating Fire, by very much more than one half, to be parted from the other. Whence it is, that whereas all other gentle *Catharticks*, do many times deceive the Physician; this Salt never fails to purge. For of all Medicines, those act upon the humours of the Body with the greatest certainty, which by the force of the Humours are least alterable. Of which number, the said Salt and other Minerals are to be accounted.

Lastly, this Salt, altho' compounded of divers Principles, yet is it, if duly prepar'd, very pure; so as not to be alloy'd with the thousandth part

* *In a sort of Pile, like that of the Amiantus.*] As also many other Salts do, when they shoot not under Water, but in the *Aer*, and so under the government of some Aerial Salt.

any sort of Body which is a stranger to it.
or if you evaporate some distill'd Water im-
regnated with an Ounce of this Salt; it will
hold not one Grain of any Heterogeneous Salt,
nor of the stony Sediment, nor of the like Cre-
ar; but the same Ounce of a more pure Pur-
ing Salt.

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PART the SECOND.

Of the USE of the Bitter
Purging SALT.

CHAP. I.

*The Use of the Bitter Purging Salt more
generally considered.*

THe Use of the *Purging Waters* near *Epsom*, and others of the same kind, is so great and manifold, and so well known to our *London Physicians* of any standing and practice, that they who make a doubt of it, are hardly to be allow'd the hearing. They are experienc'd to be a very effectual remedy in sundry great Diseases, without the conjunction of any untoward Quality, and whereof, if duly prescribed, the Patient is never surpriz'd with any ill Effect.

One thing, and that with some shew of Reason, perhaps may be objected; That these Waters afford a stony *Cremor* upon boiling. Whence it may be doubted, whether they may not also afford some Matter apt for the breeding of a Stone in Humane Bodies.

But this Objection is contrary to all Experience; as well that whereof I have before given an account, as that we have in the daily Practice of Physick. For by what hath been said, it appears, That this kind of stony *Cremor* gathers at the top, neither of the Purging Waters, nor of *Lime-water* it self, unless it be expos'd in an open Vessel, to the Air. And therefore also, that no stony Matter is bred of these Waters in a Man's Body.

But is not the Air mix'd with the humours of a Man's Body? Be it so: and so it is likewise with all Water; as is certain from Experiments made in the Air-Pump. Yet that which would never have any Lapidifick power, were it not assisted with a free Influx of the External Air. Besides that, the Air passes not into a Man's Body, without being strained.

And as to practical Experience, there are some known not only to my self, but to other Physicians, who albeit they have drunk the said purging Waters plentifully, and many days together, for twenty or thirty Years; yet have always been free from the Gout and Stone, either in the Kidneys or Bladder; and are in perfect health at
this

present Time. And the Lord North before
mention'd, who drank of those both at *Epsom*
and *Barnet*, lived free of the said Diseases to the
age of Eighty five.

I add further, That *Lime-water* it self, which
upon the access of the Air to it, presently breeds
a stony *Cremor*, is yet frequently, and very safe-
ly prescribed by Physicians.

And our *Londoners* constantly make use of
Lime-water for the refining of Sugar. By means
whereof the *Molosses* are more easily separated
from the Crystallized or Candied Part, which
thereupon becomes perfectly pure and white.

But if the purging Water it self is to be look'd
upon as an excellent Medicine, how much rather
the Salt which is made of it? For that which is
objected against the Use of the Water, should it
for Argument sake be granted; yet is of no
force against the Use of the Salt, as being depu-
rated from all Lapidifick Matter.

The Water also, if souled with overmuch of
the *Muriatick Salt*, will sometimes work a little
harshly. But the afore-commended Salt, being
clear'd of that Dreg, is one of the easiest of
purging Medicines.

'Tis also perfectly free from that malignant
Quality belonging to most Purgers. It never
ferments the Humors; never causes Sickness, or
Swooning, or any Gripes; never fails the Phy-
sician by mere Motions to Stool, nor affrights
the Patient by over-purging.

Be-

Besides, the Waters are not always of equal strength, but of more or less, both in Winter and Summer, as the Season is wet or dry. And some who sell these Waters, when they find their store begins to fail, will venture to adulterate them with *common Water*; whereby the *Physician*, tho' he prescribe the usual Quantity, yet is sometimes deceived in his Expectation of the usual Success. But the Salt prepared of the Waters, if pure and perfect, is always alike, and of the like purging Virtue.

Physicians too in *London*, for the most part, prescribe the Waters, not to be drunk raw, but boil'd; For so the quantity of the Waters being lessen'd, and yet the strength encreas'd*, they work off the *Stomach* and *Bowels* more advantageously. In Summer they should be boil'd to two thirds; in Winter to one half, which requires two or three hours: Whereas the purging Salt of the Waters being dissolv'd in any convenient Liquor, perhaps a little boil'd, is a Medicine always ready, very convenient to the Apothecary's hand, and more to the Patient's Case; who in urgent Diseases lies in much pain, while he stays for a long and tedious boiling, and is thereby sometimes put in danger.

* *The Strength encreased.*] That is, proportionably to the Quantity of the Water; the Virtue of these Waters not lying in a Volatile Spirit, as in those of *Tunbridge* and the like, but in a fixed Salt.

the last, though not the least thing we may consider, is, That the Waters, if kept a while longer than ordinary, especially in a hot Country or Season, will be corrupted and stink: Whereas the Salt extracted from them, continues every where, and always incorruptible.

But I foresee that some may doubt of the wholesomeness even of the *Salt* it self, because at upon Distillation it yields an Acid Spirit.

But this Objection lies as much against the Use of the Waters themselves, for that in these the said *Salt* is contained.

And we may as well suspect the eating of Sugar or Honey, or the whitest Bread: from each of which a *Spirit* may be distilled, not only as acid as the Spirit of the purging *Salt*, but also very *Acrimonious*. Wine also, and the most wholesome Food, when as their Principles either by Fermentation, or otherwise, are once decayed, do always partake of hurtful, and sometimes of poisonous *Qualities*. Even the Food of Infants, their Mothers Milk, if set so as to stand warm, will grow sowre in a short time. But the purging *Salt*, taken dissolved in any proper Liquor, doth not thereby suffer a Dissolution of its Principles, but retains its *Essence* or Nature unaltered; as much as do any of the above named sorts of Food when we eat them. For as the *Salt* it self, so any fair Water in which we drink the *Salt* dissolv'd, gives the same moderately *bit*, *Taste*, without the least *Acidity* join'd with it.

C H A P. II.

Of the Way of Prescribing the Bitter Purg- ing Salt.

IT may be taken in any Liquor, agreeable to the Patient's Constitution or Palate: as Spring-Water, distill'd Water, or any other very clear; a *Decoction* of *Pearl'd Barley*, thin *Water-Groel*, or very thin *Panada*; *Possiet-drink*, *Whey** and the like. I often use fair Water, a little boil'd and season'd with *Mace*; whereof I prescribe a Quart or three Pints, or two Quarts impregnated with half an Ounce, or an Ounce or more of the Purg^{ing} Salt †; as for example. Take of Spring-Water two Quarts, *Mace* Drachm: Boil them a little, and in the Liquor dissolve an Ounce or ten Drachms of the *bitter*

[* *Whey*.] The English Reader may be minded, that the *Whey* is to be boiled, lest the Salt should make it curdle if not before it is drunk, yet in the Stomach. † *Impregnated with half an Ounce or an Ounce of Salt, &c.*] It is here requisite to admonish an English Reader, That in taking the *Purg^{ing} Salt*, he is to be guided in the manner, time and quantity, by his Constitution and Disease. And that in making a judgment of these, he is not to trust himself too far, but as his safest Course, to be advised by a Physician.

Purg Salt, for an *Apozeme* to be drank in the
morning fasting, hot, warm, or sometimes cold,
the space of two Hours, with a little Exer-

This *Apozeme* may be taken either by it self,
in the working of other purging Physick.

It is also convenient, upon occasion, to quick-
en the Operation of the Salt, by adding either
Mace or *Manna*, or both of them to the *Mace*:
in the following or other like form.

Take two Quarts of *Spring-Water*, *Mace* a
Handfull, *Alexandrian Sena* two Drachms, or
three. Boil them a little; and then add an
Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*. of the best *Cae-*
rian Manna an ounce and half, or two ounce
and so run the Liquor through a Sieve.

The Lord *Dudley North* was the first who
drank the *Purging Waters* with Milk. But they
were heavy upon his Stomach, because he mixed
them cold. Afterwards Physicians alter'd the
Waters with Milk, when they boil'd. Which
show, those who have a mind, may very safely
use the Salt it self; as thus:

Take three Pints and a half of *Spring-Water*,
the *Bitter Purging Salt* an Ounce, or ten
Drachms. Mix them, and when the Water boils;
pour upon it half a Pint of new Milk, and strain
the Liquor from the Curd.

In Summer, when the *Medicinal Waters* are
every where frequented; this Salt cannot be ta-
ken in any thing better, than in *Tunbridge Wa-*

or, or any other *Chalybeate* kind, or in the purging *Water* it self.

A Drachm, or a Drachm and half of this *Salt* taken in the first three or four draughts of *Tunbridge Water*, or any other of the same sort, and repeated for some Mornings, prepares the Humours, and clears the way, for the intended Drinking bout.

The *Chalybeate Waters* do sometimes bind. Which Inconvenience is remedied, by putting a little of this *Salt* into the first or last Glas.

It is also very usefully taken in the purging *Waters* themselves. VVhereof if every draught be impregnated with a Drachm of the purging *Salt*, they will work off much more certainly, and with half the number; and so be less burdensome to the *Stomach*.

Nor can any thing be more proper, than sometimes to sharpen Clysters, with Three Drachms, or half an Ounce of purging *Salt*, instead of that which is commonly called *Saccharum*.

CHAP. III.

of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, more particularly: And first, in Diseases of the Stomach.

What I am about to say of the *Purging Waters*, and of their *Salt*, is not grounded upon mere *Conjecture*, but the long *Experience* of other very Learn'd *Physicians*, as well as my own. Who all of us, in the *Diseases* hereafter mention'd, have made use of both the aforesaid Remedies with very good Success.

First then, the *Purging Waters*, or the *Salt* made of them, are a most friendly Medicine to the Stomach, viz. in promoting both an *Appetite* and a good *Digestion*. Partly, from one of its Principles, which is *Potentially Acid*; and partly from the addition of the *Alcaline*, and thereby the *Bitterness* of the whole. And from the former so much the rather, because it affords a Spirit somewhat of kin to the Spirit of *Common Salt*, the Seasoner of all Food: yet from the latter withal, seeing we experience the *Stomach* to be strengthen'd with most things which are *bitter*. And 'tis well known that they are compounded *Salts* which whet the *Appetite* most of all. For *Pickles* are generally made not with *Brine* alone, but with the addition of *Vinegar*.

gay. And good Claret, as at Meals it is the most acceptable; so is it impregnated with a greater quantity of *Tartar* (a compounded Salt) than any other Wine. The Salt too of *Steel* (which is a compounded one) among other Stomachick Medicines, is none of the least note. And those two universal Digestors, Bread and Spittle, of which the one contains an Acid Salt, the other an Alcaline, being mixt together, perform the office of a compounded Salt. In a word, the Ferment or Digester of the Stomach it self, is compounded both of *Alcaline* and *Acid* Parts; those derived from the Arterial Blood, these in part from the *Nerves*, or the *Dregs* of the Animal Spirits: in proof whereof there are sundry Arguments, which I shall not here insist upon. So long then as the Stomach is furnish'd with both these Salts in a suitable measure, the business of Concoction is rightly perform'd: But if either of them be predominant, sometimes *Acid* Salts, and sometimes *Alcaline*, are necessary to restore them to a due proportion.

When by eating or drinking over-much, or that which is unwholsom, Concoction is faulty; *Vomiting* often follows: For the staying whereof the Purging Water, or the Salt made of it, is an excellent Medicine. For the same reason as that so celebrated Mixture of Salt of *Worwood* and the Juice of *Lemons*. And is herein superiour to it, in that it both destroys and expels from the Stomach all kinds of Peccant Salts, as it were with one stroak. Where-

Wherefore also in the *Stomach-ach*, and other
Pains, nothing is safer or more effectual
than the aforefaid Medicine.

And so likewise in the *Hypocondriacal Affection*
th beat.

In these Diseases, I have sometimes prescribed
the Purging Waters, or the Salt made of them,
alone. But ordinarily not without the Assist-
ance of Bleeding, Vomiting, and other like Re-
medies. It being the part of a prudent Physici-
an, especially in great and dangerous Diseases,
not to betrust his *Patient's* Health, and the Valua-
tion of his own Fame, to any one Remedy *,
tho' never so highly in vogue.

Now these Remedies are, according unto In-
dications, infinitely to be vary'd. Some Forms
whereof, notwithstanding, the Learned Reader
may be pleased to look over, as here they fol-
low.

To quicken a decay'd Appetite.

Take a Flask of *Spaw water*, or a Quart or
three Pints of any other Chalybeate Water; or

* *Not to betrust*——to any one Remedy.] The English Rea-
der is here again admonished, for two Reasons, not to be
over-busie with this Medicine, so as to use it upon all occasi-
ons; as we say, hand over head. First, because he can very
seldom be a competent Judge of his own Case; nor there-
fore whether the Salt be proper for it, or no. And, Se-
condly, because, tho' it should be so, yet he skills not those
other Remedies usually necessary to be joined with it; and
so may be the Author of his own hurt, not so much in what
he doth, as in omitting what he should have done.

had, of *Mac'd Waters* of the *Bitter Purging Salt* half an Ounce, six Drachms or an Ounce : Mix, and drink them fasting, and a little warmed.

And for the better drinking of all sorts of *Chalybeate Waters* *, if the Physician thinks fit, a little warm, without the loss of its most *subtile Spirit*: The *Bottle* in which they are kept, being set in a *Vessel of hot Water* for some Minutes of an Hour, is then to be open'd, and after the pouring out of every *Glass*, to be well stopped again.

While these are drinking, let the *Patient* take an hour before Dinner *twenty, thirty, or forty Drops of Elixir Proprietatis* †, in a Spoonful of *Sherry or Purl Royal* : And let him continue the

* And for the better drinking all sorts of *Chalybeate Waters*] The Readers may ask, But how can we come by these Waters at a distance from the *VVells* ? And it may be asked with a little Indignation, *VVhy* any part of *England* should want good *Tunbridge water*, when we have the *Spaw-water* (the Spirit whereof is altogether as *Volatile* as that of *Tunbridge-water*) at a far greater distance ? It is but putting it into the same kind of *Flasks*, with long and slender *Necks*, and stopping them with the same care, (with *Corks* dipped in melted *Pitch*, and thrust into the *Flasks* at the same instant in which they are filled, and then covered with some of the same *Pitch*, and over that with a *Piece of soft Leather*) and the thing is done. And then the *Trial* whether this Care hath been used, is easily made, by its turning *Purple*, upon mixing a little of it with the *Powder* of a *Dyer's Gall*. † *Elixir Proprietatis*.] That made with *Oil of Sulphur*, is best in this case.

Use

of these either every, or each other Day, repeating them four, five, or six times. Or,

Take two Ounces of the Conserve of *Roman Wormwood*, Conserve of *Garden Scurvy-grass* an Ounce, preserv'd *Ginger* half an Ounce, *Species Aromaticæ Garyophyllatæ* || a Drachm and half, *Winterane Barque*, and the true *Salt of Wormwood*, of each a Drachm, Syrup of *Clove-July flowers*, enough to make them into an Electuary. Let the Patient take as much as a large Nutmeg going to Bed, and of a small Walnut an hour before Dinner, with a little of the aforesaid Wine, or without it, if it gives him the Head ach. Or,

Take of the new and bright Filings of *Steel* three Ounces, of the tops of *Roman Wormwood* half a Handful, the Root of *Roman Cyperus* and *Calamus Aromaticus*, of each a Drachm, the lesser *Galangale*, *Cinamon*, and *Saffren*, of each half a Drachm, and a Quart of *White wine* or *Sberry*. Let them be digested with a gentle Heat, or stand in a warm room, in a Bottle well stopped, for three days, shaking them every day. Pour off the Infusion, and let the Patient take two, three, or four Spoonfuls every day, two hours before dinner.

To stay Vomitisings.

Take of any *Chalybeate Water*, or instead of that, three Pints, or two Quarts of *Spring-water*

|| *Species Aromaticæ Garyophyllatæ*] A Compounded Powder in the *London Dispensatory*.

ter

ter season'd with *Mace*, of the *bitter Purgin*
Salt six Drachms, an Ounce, or ten Drachms
Mix, and drink them fasting warm, or cold, as
you like them best, repeating them thrice, or
oftner, if need be, either every, or each other
day; and join herewith the following Pills.

Take *Red Roses* and strong *Cinamon*, of each a
Drachm, *Cloves*, and *Salt of Steel* of each a Scruple,
Saffron half a Scruple, the Chymical Oil of
Mint eight drops, and as much Syrup of Steel
as will make them up into twenty four Pills.
Let the Patient take three of them every day,
two hours before a Dinner of Spoon-meat, and
as many going to bed.

A *Fomentation* made with a hot *Infusion* of
Mint and *Red Roses*, and an ounce of *Venice*
Treacle in Claret-Wine, may sometimes be of
great use.

In the Pain of the Stomach like the Cholick..

Take of the best *Sena* two drachms, *Mace* a
drachm: Boil them in a sufficient quantity of
Spring-water, to three Pints or two Quarts;
and to the strain'd Liquor add six drachms, an
ounce, or ten drachms of the *Bitter Purgin Salt*,
Syrup of Steel an ounce and half; for *Purgin*
Apozeme, to be drunk in the Morning after the
usual manner. Or it may be made without
Sena *, and taken either by it self, or with the
following Pills.

* Or without *Sena*.] That is, when it gripes the Patient.

Take

Take of the Stomach-Pill with Gums † twenty Grains, fine Filings of Steel ten grains, Sy- of Steel a few drops: Mix, and make them o four Pills, to be taken going to bed, The xt Morning take the *Apozeme* as aforesaid ; d so for three days together, or longer.

Sometimes it may be convenient to mix with e Pills the *Extract of Gentian*, or some other ter Extract :

As also half a Grain, or a Grain of *London sudanum*, if the Pain be great.

In the Hypochondriacal Affection with Heat.

Take of any *Chalybeate Water* a Quart, three nts, or two Quarts ; dissolve in each draught lf a drachm or a drachm of the *bitter Purging* lt, to seven or eight draughts, and drink them old.

Or instead of *Chalybeate Waters*, it may be ken in simple Milk water, or distill'd from the eaves of *Borage* and *Burnet*.

In the Heart-Burning.

In which Disease the Salt may be successfully ken in like manner, as in the last aforementi- ned.

† *The Stomach Pill with Gums.*] A Pill in the *London Dis- ensatory*.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, in Diseases of the Guts, and Parts adjacent: And first in the Cholick.

IT is not necessary to pre-monish the Learned and Experienced *Physician*, that in this Disease, letting Blood is seldom or never to be omitted, and to be done in the first place.

Next, it is very advisable, that the following, or other like *Clyster*, be injected.

Take a Pint of the *common Decoction* for a *Clyster* *, adding to the other Ingredients to be boil'd three Drachms, or half an Ounce, of the best *Sena*. In the strained *Liquor* dissolve half an Ounce, or five Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, of the Species *Hieræ Picra* † a Drachm and half, or two Drachms; brown Sugar 2 Ounces. With this, or some such *Clyster*, the Pains are often dissipated, or at least the way is open'd for the Passage of internal *Medicines* through the Bowels.

A Scruple, or half a Drachm of *Pilula Ru-*

* *The common Decoction for a Clyster.*] That is, a Decoction prescribed under that Title in the *London Dispensatory*.
† *Species Hieræ Picra.*] A compounded Powder so called in the *London Dispensatory*.

, together with a Grain, or a Grain and half
London Laudanum, are oftentimes given with
good success.

And sometimes *Quicksilver*, if the *Patient*
swallows enough of it, as four or six Ounces :
and especially if it be taken in about two Oun-
ces of the *Tinctura Sacra* ; that is, the Tincture
of the Species *Hieræ Picræ*, made with White-
wine, or in some other convenient Purger.

But of all other *Medicines*, the Purging Wa-
ters, or the Salt made of them, is the noblest, be-
ing taken in the following, or other like manner.

Take of *Spring*, or *River-Water* seasoned with
Mace, three Pints and half, *Chamemile-flower-*
water, or *Mint water*, six Ounces ; of the *Bitter*
Purging Salt an Ounce or ten Drachms ; and an
Ounce and half, or two Ounces of the best
Manna : Mix them for an *Apozemie*. Let the
Patient take about half a Wine-Pint at a draught
at a time, and all of it in an hour, or an hour and
half : altho' he should vomit some part of it.

This *Medicine* is sometimes more effectual, if
assisted with the following.

Take of the *Tinctura Sacra* two, three, or four
Ounces ; and hereof a spoonful or two, before
every draught of the aforelaid *Apozeme*.

In the Worms.

The same Salt, if the *Nurse* mixes a Drachm,

* *Pilula Rudii.*] A Pill in the *London Dispensatory*.

of a drachm and half, with any Food, commonly made for Children, without Milk, will expel the Worms.

Especially if the Physician shall premise the taking in some convenient manner, a Grain of *Mercurius dulcis*; or of the *Crystals* or *Salt* of *Silver*; or two or three Grains, according to the Age of the Patient.

Or if the *Purging Salt* be dissolved in bitter Clysters.

In Nephritick Pains.

In this Disease, as well as in the *Colic*, 'tis proper, for the most part, to begin with *Bleeding*; and oftentimes also to repeat it.

To which also a Vomit of *Vinum Benedictum*, or *Sal Vitrioli*, especially if the Patient be inclinable to vomit, is very aptly subjoin'd. For by virtue hercot, not only the Stomach it self (sometimes the first in fault) is unloaded; but all the Nervous Parts bordering on the *Kidneys*, and extreemly suffering in this Disease, are relieved.

After this, especially if the Patient hath no Stool with the Vomit, let the following Clyster be injected

Take of *Chamemile flowers* a handful, *Cumine- Seeds*, *Sweet Fenil seeds*, and *Parsh-y seeds*, all bruised, of each an ounce, *Marsh Mallow Root*

* *Nephritick Pains.*] That is, Pains in and about the Kidneys or Reins.

sliced

and bruised, *Boil* them in a sufficient quantity of fair *Water* to a Pint. To the strain'd Liquor add half an ounce of *Turpentine* dissolved in the Yolk of an Egg, half an ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup of *Marsh-Mallows* three ounces. Mix them for a Clyster.

If the Pains are very great, add to the Clyster forty or fifty drops of *Cydoniated Liquid Laudanum*. Upon the working of this, or the like Clyster, the Patient oftentimes, will make Water with, or without a Stone or Gravel, and the Pains go off.

But if they are so pertinaceous, as still to continue, we must have recourse to the following Apozeme, as the most promising Remedy.

Take of the *Decoction of Pearl Barley* seasoned with *Mace*, three Pints, or two Quarts; six Drachms, or an Ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*; Syrup of *Marsh-Mallows* three or four Ounces. Mix them for an Apozeme, to be taken hot, in an hour, an hour and half, or two hours, or thereabout, altho' the Patient should vomit some part of it.

In Hot Urine.

In which *Disease* the same *Apozeme* is available, whether it proceedeth from the sharpness of the Blood, or a *Venereal Gonorrhæa*.

In an Ischury.

And so likewise in an *Ischury*, or total Suppression of *Urine*; whether it happens without a Stone,

or without one big enough to stop the
Passages of Urine.

Yet if the *Disease* hath been of some days continuance, the *Patient* must presently bleed, and plentifully. Next, inject a pretty sharp Clyster, with Syrup of *Spina Cervina*, the Bitter Purging Salt, &c. During the Operation whereof, it will be very useful to drink the aforesaid *Apozeme*, or some Draughts of it. Especially, if a spoonful of the following Mixture be taken before every Draught.

Take *Fenil* and *Saxifrage Water*, of each an Ounce and half, Salt of *Amber* a Drachm, *Tarsarum Vitriolatum* a Scruple, prepar'd *Millepedes* two Drachms, Syrup of *Marsh-mallows* an Ounce. Mix them.

In a Diabetes.

In which most dangerous Disease, if there be need of some very gentle Evacuation, the said Waters, or Salt, in regard either of them moves very easily, and cools much, is of all others the safest, if not the only Purge. With the help whereof, in conjunction with the constant use of *Chalybeate Waters*, of any sort, and also of *Hypnoticks* *, I have restored some (but those indeed Young) when near dying, unto perfect Health.

* And also of *Hypnoticks*.] That is, sleeping Medicines: very useful and necessary in this Disease, tho' the Patient be faint and weak; because that Sleep stops all Evacuations but Sweat.

In the Jaundies.

Bleeding likewise in this Disease is seldom to be omitted. Yea; to be repeated, if the Patient be somewhat more feverish.

Neither are Vomits of less use : both as they rid the Stomach of its morbidick Load, and also pump up the Gall, which stagnates in its own bladder : And should therefore be repeated at convenient Intervals, if there be need. Especially, if these and other Remedies, proving less successful, shall give cause to suspect there are some Stones, which by their Number or Bulk, stop the Canale, by which the Gall passes into the Guts : in which case we must persist with a prudent Resolution.

But in any sort of Jaundies, with Stones in the Gall, or without, the Purging Water or its Salt, very properly given in the following or other manner.

Take of *Pilula Ruffi* half a Drachm, *Rhubarb*, and *Volatile Salt of Urine*, of each half a Scruple, Syrup of *Wormwood* enough to make them into six Pills, to be taken going to bed. In the Morning following let the Patient drink this *Pozeme*.

Take two Ounces of the Shavings of *Harts-horn*; boil them in three Quarts of *Spring-water* to two : Then add *Mace* and *Turmeric*, of each Drachm ; and having boil'd them a little, dissolve in the strain'd Liquor the *Bitter Purging*

E

Salt

Salt and Syrup of Steel, of each an Ounce, for an *Apozeme*, to be drank as usually.

If the Physician sees it convenient, instead of the foremention'd Pills, he may give the following Draught.

Take an Ounce and half, or two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra*, an Ounce of Syrup of *Cichory* made with *Rhubarb**, *Tartarum Vitriolatum* half a Scruple. Mix them for a Draught to be taken about six or seven a-clock in the Morning. And after two hours let the *Patient* drink the *Apozeme* before prescrib'd : And so repeat them every, or each other Day.

If *Aloetick Medicines* heat the *Patient*, the Infusion of *Rhubarb*, &c. may do better.

C H A P. V.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, in Diseases of the Head. And first, in Madness.

IN *Madness*, besides *Bleeding* and repeated *Vomits*, it is likewise often necessary to use *Cephalick Ointments*, a *Seton* in the Neck, *Blistering Plaisters*, especially laid on the *Legs*, *Purges*, and other Remedies.

To further the Operation of *Purging Medicines*,

* Syrup of *Cichory* made with *Rhubarb*.] A Compound Syrup in the *London Dispensatory*.

cine

whether prepared with *Hellebore*, or o-
therwise, nothing can be more proper than the
use of *Spring Water*, or their *Salt*, given in this or c-
ommon like manner.

Take the Leaves of *Bawm* or *Borage*, of each
a Handful: Infuse them in two Quarts or five
Gallons of boil'd *Spring water* while 'tis hot, and
let them stand in a Vessel well covered for half
an hour. Add to the strain'd Infusion an
Ounce or ten Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*,
and a Cup of Violets three Ounces; Mix them for
a *posset* to be drunk by it self, or with any
convenient Purge instead of *Posset drink*. Or,

Take an Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*:
Dissolve a Drachm in a Draught of *Spaw-water*,
or any other *Chalybeate* kind; and let the Pa-
tient drink eight such draughts.

The same *Water* or *Salt* may likewise be very
usefully taken in the same manner, in the Inter-
val of other *Purgations*; especially in Summer.
It greatly allays the *Maniacal Turbulency* of
Humours and Spirits.

In the Head-ach.

In which Disease, and the rather if proceed-
ing from a *hot Cause*, or join'd with a *hot Consti-
tution*, there is nothing in the Art of Physick
which I have found more effectual than the fol-
lowing, or such like method.

First, let a sufficient Quantity of Blood be

taken away from the Arm, or elfewhere, as ſhall ſeem moſt convenient.

Next, let a Vomit be given, or omitted, as the Patient's Strength, and other Circumſtances ſhall direct: And then the following Medicines.

Take prepar'd *Scammony*, powder'd *Rhubarb* and *Mercurius Dulcis*, of each ten, twelve, or fourteen Grains, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* enough to make them into five Pills, to be taken at four or five a-clock in the Morning, and let the Patient ſleep upon it. After three hours, let him drink this *Apozeme*.

Take of *Spring-water* ſeaſon'd with *Mace* three Pints or two Quarts, fix Drachms or an Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup of *Violets* two Ounces: mix and take them by convenient Draughts, and keep your ſelf warm in the working.

Let the ſame *Apozeme* be repeated with the Pills now before preſcrib'd, every third or fourth day; and on the days between by it ſelf. And in like manner continu'd, if need be, for a Fortnight or three Weeks.

In the Megrim.

It is neceſſary alſo in this caſe, to begin with *Bleeding*; and the rather, if it proceeds from drinking over-much Wine: and firſt, by opening a Vein in the Arm.

Next, by *Cupping Glaſſes* applied with *Scarification*.

tion †, not only to the *Shoulders*, but to the
under part of the *Head* it self, being first shaved.
To which Part, as well in this *Disease*, as in the
head-ach, and *Inflammations of the Eyes*, I common-
order them to be applied, rather than to any
other, and with better success. After Bleeding,
give the following *Medicines*.

Take of *Pilula Mastichina* || two Scruples, and
ve Drops of Chymical Oil of *Majorane*: Mix,
and take them going to bed. On the next Mor-
ing drink this *Apozeme*.

Take *Spring water* season'd with *Mace*, a
Quart or three Pints, four Ounces of the *Water*
Sage of *Virtue*, of *Sweet-Majorane water* two
Ounces, and six Drachms of the *Bitter Purging*
Salt: Mix, and take them in the usual manner.
Sometimes it may be useful to take a Spoonful
of the following *Mixture* before every draught.

Take the Leaves of *Sweet-Majorane* and *Sage*
Virtue, of each two Drachms, *Gentian-Root*,
and the Species of *Hiera Picra*, of each two
Scruples, and four Ounces of *White-wine*. Di-
still them twelve hours in a Bottle well stopped,

† *Cupping-Glasses applied with Scarification.*] This Ope-
ration, as it is commonly performed in *England*, is both
sightful and painful. But the Glasses being warmed with
Lamp, instead of being filled with flaming Tow; and a
Alebm used (by Filliping) instead of a Launce, after the
German way; it is altogether as easie as bleeding at the Arm.
|| *Pilula Mastichina*] A Compounded Pill in the *London*
Dispensatory.

and then let the *Tincture* be strongly pressed out, and stand, till the muddy Parts being settled, it becomes clear.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt in some other Diseases. And first, in Mother-Fits.

IN which case, after the more grievous Symptoms are allay'd by the use of *Opiates* *, ten or twelve Drachms, or two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra* (made with two parts of *White-wine*, and one part of *Hysterick Water* †) may be given, for the most part, with good success.

But if the Physician sees it convenient to give a more temperate Purge ; that so often commended, in regard it works so gently, may be safely drunk : and with the greater Benefit, if instead of *Maced Water* the *Purging Salt* be dissolved either in the *Spaw water*, or that of *Bawm*.

In the Wandring Gout.

Which is commonly, but erroneously, called a *Rheumatism*. For that this falls upon the *Mus-*

* By the use of *Opiates*.] The English Reader is here admonished to be very wary in meddling with this sort of Medicines, whether liquid or solid. A Dose containing a Grain or a Grain and half of *Opium*, not to be exceeded, without special Occasion and Direction. † *Hysterick Water*.] A Compounded Water in the London Dispensatory.

slow Parts, that only on the *Joints*. 'Tis a stubborn Disease, and often requires a good Set of Remedies:

Begin with *Bleeding*, and repeat it every, or each other day, to the fourth, or if need be, to the fifth or sixth time.

After the first or second *Bleeding*, I find a *Vomit* to be, oftentimes, of very great use. For so long as the *Stomach* is foul, it sends new Matter every day to the *Blood* and *Joints* to feed the Disease.

But for *Purges*, and those of the stronger sort, albeit they are sometimes for a few days to be *deferr'd*: yet are hardly ever to be omitted. One good *Purge*, commonly more prevailing * against this Disease than three or four *Bleedings*.

Now the Operation of these *Purges*, in regard the Patient is seldom without some Fever †, is much more gently performed, and without putting the Humours into a Ferment, with the help of the *Purging Waters*, or their Salt; which may be taken with them in the following manner.

* *One good Purge prevailing more than three or four Bleedings.* And besides the speeding of the Cure, the ill Effects which sometimes follow upon the taking away so great a Quantity of Blood, are avoided. † *The Patient seldom without some Fever.* Which may give occasion to some, even Physicians, to suspect the use of strong Purges in this Case. But his Fever is not a *Febris Synochus*, that is, the ordinary sort of continual Fever; much less with any malignant Properties, which should forbid the Purgation here prescribed.

Take of the Powder of *Rosinous Jalap* half a Drachm, six Grains of prepar'd *Scammony*, *Camel* half a Scruple, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* enough to make a *Bolus*, to be taken at five a'clock in the Morning, and let the *Patient* sleep upon it. And after three hours drink this *Apozeme*.

Take an ounce and half of *Pearl Barley*, three ounces of *Corins*: Boil them in Spring-water enough, to a Quart and half a Pint, or three Pints and half; adding towards the end of the boiling, half a Drachm of *Mace*. In the strained *Liquor*, dissolve an ounce of the bitter *Purging Salt*, and half an ounce, an ounce, or an ounce and half of the best *Manna*, for an *Apozeme*.

If the *Patient* is not easily wrought upon, and other *Coindicants* also shall direct it, let him take six drachms or an ounce of Syrup of *Spina Cervina* in the first draught: And let the *Bolus* be repeated with this or the like *Apozeme*, every other, or third, or fourth day, as shall seem best to the Physician, or with longer Intervals, till the *Patient* is perfectly recover'd.

In the Beginning and Increase of the *Disease*, every, or at least each other Night, and constantly after *Purgation*, a convenient *Opiate* * is to be given, whereby to hinder the Effervescence of the Humours, and their renewed Influx upon the *Joints*.

When, either because the *Fever* is somewhat

* *A Convenient Opiate.*] Here the English Reader is again admonished, as a little before in this Chapter.

gh, or the Patient weak, Purgation is for
some time to be deferr'd: *Blistring Plaisters* be-
ing applied about four Inches above or below
the diseas'd Joints, give great Relief. And some-
times the serous Part of the Blood is so very hot
and unbridl'd, as to baffle all the aforesaid Re-
medies, till by the help of *Blisters* it is in some
measure separated from the red, which is the
softer part of the Blood.

In this Disease, those Medicines which provoke
Sweat, altho' plentifully, yet hardly do any
good. But *Diureticks* are taken with advantage:
for which reason also *Apozemes* impregnated,
as aforesaid, with the *Purging Salt*, are the more
convenient; as working both by *Stool* and *Urine*
at the same time.

While the Patient is under cure, let him ab-
stain from *Wine* and *winy Liquors*, and all *Malt*
Drinks unboiled. Fresh and clarify'd, that is,
boil'd *Whey* is of all other Drinks, the most ex-
cellent * †.

In

* *Whey, of all other Drinks, the most excellent.*] That is, in
this case. For what can better subdue the Acrimony of the
serous Blood, than to dilute it with so soft a Liquor of its
own kind? † Whereas this Disease as usually managed,
will hold and vex the Patients for six Weeks or two Months,
and sometimes longer: The Author has assur'd me, that by
the Method he hath here prescrib'd, he has commonly set
them up in a Fortnight or three Weeks at the most; and
that some of them have been perfectly recover'd in a VWeek
or ten Days: especially upon giving, after once or twice
Bleeding, a good brisk Vomis, where there hath been great
occasion for it.

(68)
In some sorts of Itch.

Not that which is contagious or catching, but bred of the *Scurvy*; spreading sometimes all over the Body, sometimes confined to the *Pu-denda*, or some other certain Parts. In both which Cases I have often found the last prescribed *Apozeme*, repeated with or without other Purgers, to be effectual; and have blessed some with the Pleasure of *Ease*, after they have been^o tortured and tir'd out with perpetual scratching. Especially if they have been constantly kept to a good quantity of the *Chalybeate Waters*, instead of all other Drink.

The same *Apozeme* after the *Small Pox* are shell'd off, is very properly us'd.

And with most Purges in the room of Posset-drink.

To conclude, those who upon a long Journey, and chiefly in Summer, are wont to be *costive*; by two or three Drachms of this *Salt* taken in a draught or two of Spring-water, will hereby keep themselves soluble, and very cool.

C H A P. VII.

Of the Mis-use of the Bitter Waters, and of their Salt.

IT behoves a Physician, not only to shew the use of Remedies, but also to caution the Reader

er to beware of their *Mis-use*; whereby is done
 threefold Injury, to the Patient, the Physician
 and the Medicine it self.

This therefore, the Virtues whereof I have
 now enumerated, is in some *Diseases* by no means
 to be prescribed: And in some others, regard is
 to be had to the Causes and the Symptoms.

In all *Dropfies* whatsoever it doth hurt: Be-
 cause that here the native Heat is very languid,
 and that stock of Spirits which is seated in the
Grumous part of the Blood, very poor. Where
 likewise the use, even of a Liquid Diet, hastens
 the float of the *Serum* of the Blood, upon the Parts
 which lie already, as it were, under Water.

As also in a *continual Fever*, even the ordinary
 kind. Wherein, tho' the Cause is sometimes, by
 little and little, to be purged off: yet is this to
 be done, rather with such *Medicines* as are mo-
 derately *Hot*, as the *Decoctum amarum*, *Pilula*
Ruffi, and the like *; and by which, the Con-
 coction of the Humours is promoted at the same
 time. And therefore, whatsoever may prove a

* *The Decoctum Amarum, Pilula Ruffi, and the like* }
 Dispensatory Medicines; which the Author allows to be
 sometimes given in a continual Fever: and he speaks to Phy-
 sicians. But the English Reader is to take the same care,
 not to be over-busie with Purges in a Fever, as not with
 Opiates in any Case. Because that in many Fevers, no
 sort of Purge can be safely given. And if given at the be-
 ginning of a Fever (as is sometimes unwarily done, before
 the Fever apparently shews it self) it commonly proves fatal
 to the Patient.

hin-

hindrance herein, by over-cooling, we must beware of it.

Neither is it any way serviceable in an *Ague*.

Nor to Girls in the *Green sickness*. Whose Feverish Heats are kindled from too much *Acidity*, some where or other in their Humours, which are to be sweetned with more potent *Alcalies*.

'Tis also to be denied to those that spit Blood. Lest by its great and penetrating subtilty it should open the Mouths of the *Arteries*.

And in the *Disease* call'd *Cholera Morbus*. Wherein those sudden *Evacuations* which are made, are follow'd with a great sinking of the Spirits. Which kind of *Motions* made by *Nature*, while she trips with over-much haste, are rather to be quieted with Cordials and Opiates*, given now and then. But after the force of the *Disease* is broken, if there be need of any farther *Evacuation*, and the Patient be of a *Bilious Constitution*, whether *Native* or *Adventitious*, he may then drink the said *Salt* to good purpose.

'Tis also to be forborn in a *Palsie*: Lest the *Muscles*, which are already destitute of their *Native Heat* and *Vigour*, should thereby be more weakned. Yet if the *Disease* is bred of a *Hot*

[* To be quieted with Cordials and Opiates.] The English Reader is again admonished to use the same Caution, with respect to all sorts of Opiates, as in the foregoing Chapter. And the rather here, because in a *Disease* which often happens unto young Children.

Cause, as Wine, or any Winy Liquor; I have
prescrib'd it both safely, and with Effect.

.'Tis not to be allow'd to *Women with Child*,
but with Circumspection.

Nor in a Suppression of Urine, before it appears,
all things being well weigh'd, that it depends
neither upon an *Ulcer* in the Bladder, nor a *Stone*
too big to pass; in either of which Cases, the
Patient is to abstain from all Diureticks. But
otherwise I have often given this Medicine with
very good Success; that is to say, in bringing
away the Urine, and Stones with it, not of the
least size.

F I N I S.